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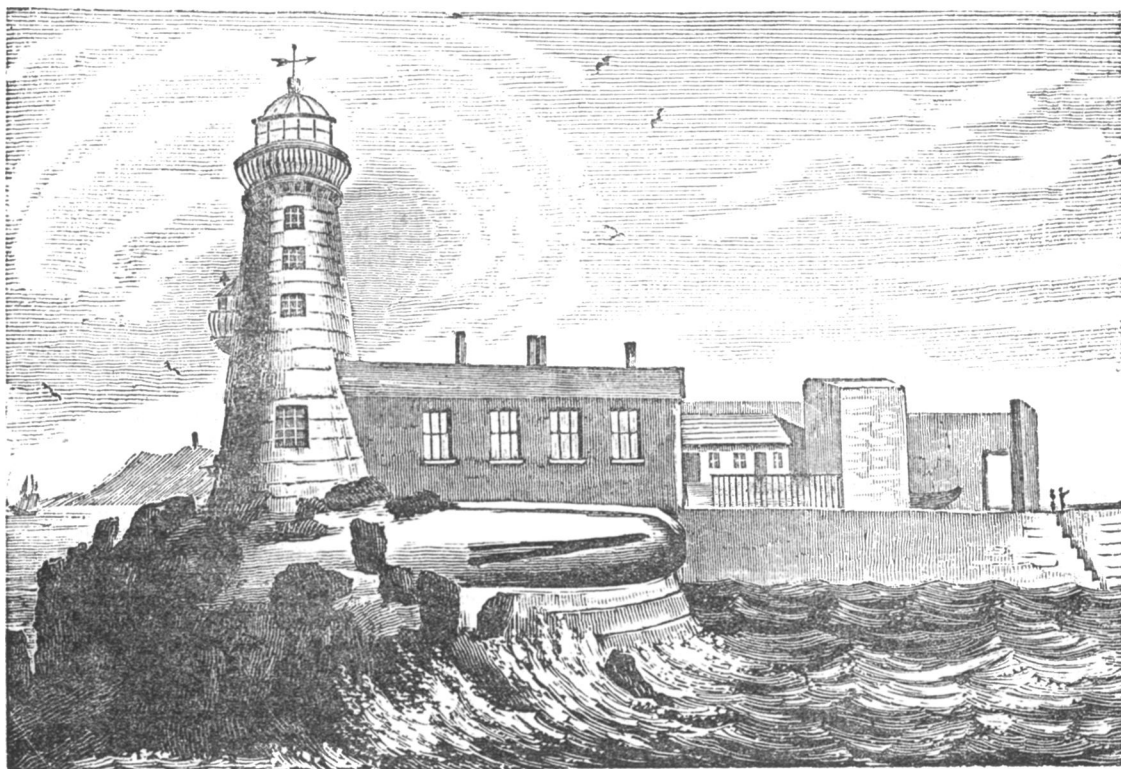
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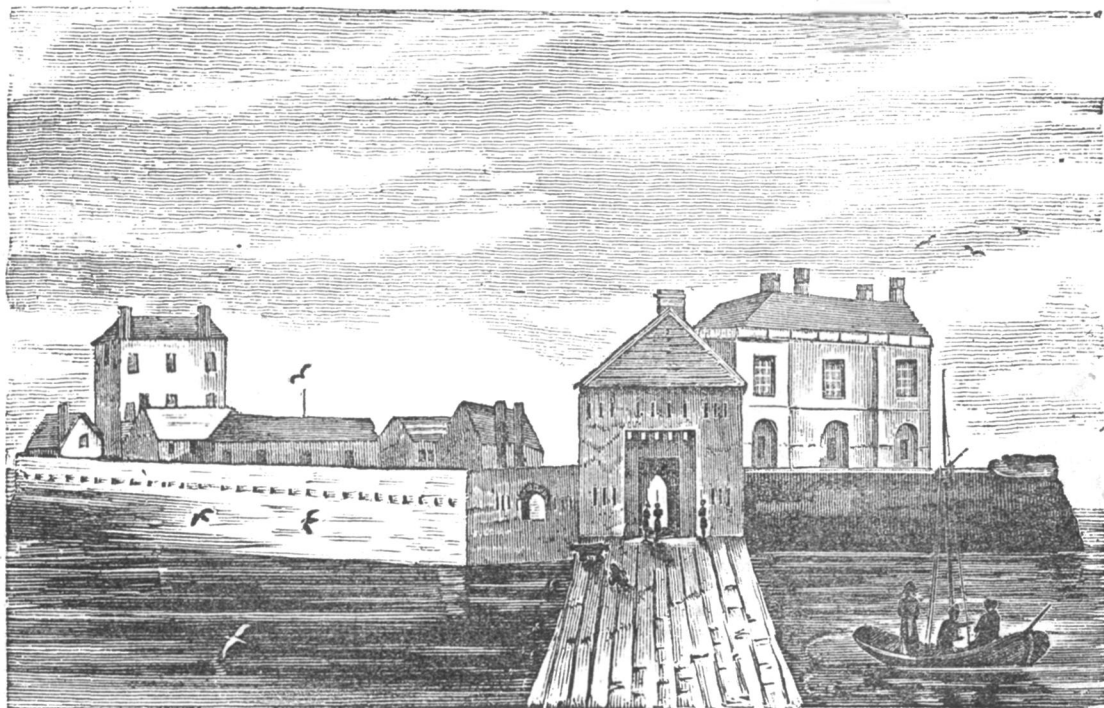
No. 140.



A. Duncan, Esq. del.

Clayton, sc.

VIEW OF THE LIGHT-HOUSE, SOUTH WALL, DUBLIN.



A. Duncan, Esq., del.

Clayton, sc.

PIGEON-HOUSE, LOOKING FROM THE LIGHT-HOUSE.

# LIGHT-HOUSE AND PIGEON-HOUSE, SOUTH WALL, DUBLIN.

The Light-House stands rather a little to the south side of the bay of Dublin. It is an elegant piece of architecture, three stories high, surmounted by an octagonal lantern, which is lighted by oil-lamps, aided by reflecting lenses. It was erected by Mr. Smith, in 1782, and affords a striking proof that the greatest difficulties may be overcome by genius and perseverance. A stone stair-case, with an iron balustrade, winds round the outside of this extraordinary building, terminating in an iron gallery, which surrounds it at the upper story. This useful and ornamental structure stands at the extremity of a range of building, called the South-wall—which was erected for the purpose of securing the harbour against the sands of the South-bull. The building of this wall was commenced in 1748, and is constructed of large blocks of granite, strongly cemented, and fastened together with iron cramps. It runs in a straight line into the sea the astonishing length of 17,704 feet, or nearly three English miles and a half.

About midway on this wall, a fort or battery has been constructed, called the Pigeon House. The pier at this point is two hundred and fifty feet wide and on it are built a Magazine, Arsenal, and Custom-house. It is considered a place of great strength, being surrounded with heavy cannon, and commanding the bay in various directions. There is always a large detachment of artillery stationed here, for whose accommodation a barrack has been erected. At this place there is also a basin, for packets and other vessels of a similar description, nine hundred feet in length, and four hundred and fifty in breadth; but since the formation of the harbours of Howth and Kingstown it is but little frequented.

## CAPE CLEAR LIGHT-HOUSE.

Sir—As some of your inland readers scarcely know what species of structure a light-house is, I send you the following account of the one erected at this station, upon the accuracy of which they may rely.

It may be well here to mention, that round the coast of Ireland there are no less than thirty-six light houses. Some are harbour lights, others floating; some revolve at different periods, others stationary; and some are furnished with stained glass, which varies the colour of the light.

Many have been the contrivances in former days to warn ships of danger or direct them in their course, by means of fires, &c.; but in modern days to adopt proper methods of constructing houses, in which the lights might be so varied as to assure the mariner of the safety of his course, and prevent the recurrence of shipwrecks. It may be interesting to some also to state that all foreign vessels are obliged to pay the sum of one halfpenny per ton for every light-house or floating light which they may have passed, or be about to pass, along the coast. British and Irish vessels, on a foreign voyage, and foreign privileged vessels, one farthing per ton for every light-house or floating-light which they may have passed, or be about to pass. Coasters, one farthing per ton for every light-house or floating-light, which they may have passed. If in ballast, one-eighth of a penny per ton only.

In reference to Cape Clear I may observe that it is an island, three miles long and one and a half wide, containing nine hundred and sixty-nine inhabitants. On the south side of this island is the light-house, a very fine building, erected about the year 1817, by the Ballast Board of Dublin. It is a circular tower of cut granite—the workmanship of which is remarkably well executed. It is about thirty-six feet high from the base to the balcony, which surrounds the lantern, and from high watermark four hundred and forty-eight feet. On the inside are three flights of winding stone steps. The floors are very curiously constructed, being formed of large stones—the centre one, which is circular, supported by those adjacent, into which it is grooved, and lead in the interstices. In the upper part, or lantern, are sixty four panes of the best plate glass, of near a quarter of an inch in thickness; the frame, in which the glass is placed, is metal, with copper screwed over. The cupola, or roof, is of copper, painted white, and ornamented with a weather-cock.

The light is produced by twenty-one lamps, which are placed in the foci of large reflectors of the parabolic form: they are of copper, with silver fronts; the whole of which are supported by a branch which revolves by machinery, much resembling that in a clock, but on a large scale, enclosed in a brass-pannelled case, and put in motion by a metal of three hundred weight. The light appears once in every two minutes, and is seen at the distance of six or seven leagues—in its brightest state, like a star of the first magnitude, and gradually becoming less luminous, is eclipsed, there being three sides, with seven lamps on each, and three angles; the sides shew brightest, and the angles dark. There is consumed each day, on an average, seven hundred and fifty gallons of spermaceti oil. It is lit at sun-set, and extinguished at sun-rise. It bears to Misen-head N. W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  W. nine and a half miles.

Annexed to the light-house, by a corridor or hall, is a square tower, which was formerly occupied by a naval lieutenant and midshipman, with a party of soldiers, and used in making telegraphic signals. The assistant light-keeper resides in it at present, and the principal, in a dwelling-house, built by the Ballast-board, convenient to the tower. There are out-houses and yards, &c., and the whole enclosed by a wall, with a gate opening to the road, which leads to South Harbour, a small cove at the S. W. part of the island. R. WILSON, jun.

Dec. 1834.

The following additional particulars relative to the Island of Cape Clear have also been sent to us by Mr. W.:

On the north-west point stand the ruins of a castle, built on a wild point of a cliff in the sea, called *Dunamore*, i. e. the Golden Fort. There is a very narrow and dangerous passage, about a yard broad and ten yards in length, to this castle. It and the island formerly belonged to O'Driscoll, and were taken on the 22d of March, 1601, by Captain Harvey, who soon after obliged Sir Fineen O'Driscoll to submit to Queen Elizabeth.\* Some time ago, a priest and another person went to see this castle: the latter stirring one of the lower stones, they had scarcely left it two minutes when the whole top part fell down; the stones were fast together after falling, and remain there still in masses.

There are four fresh water loughs—three towards the west of the island, two of which are full of reeds, which are used by some of the Capers to thatch their houses; the other, they say, is enchanted, and that if an oily barrel, a dirty jar, a rusty key, or any thing else be put into it, it would become as clean as ever.

On the south side of the island there is a cove, called South Harbour, where a vessel may anchor in safety when the wind is not south. On the opposite side there is another, called North Harbour, where there is a pier and basin for the safety of the fishing boats, the largest of which contain from ten to twelve tons. At this harbour (which is called in Irish *Tra Kieran*, i. e. Saint Kieran's strand) stand the ruins of a church, dedicated to St. Kieran, and near it is the burying ground; there is also a pillar of stone, with a cross rudely cut—of this stone it is said, that the saint was the workman. Here the people collect on St. Kieran's day, to do penance; there is a *holy well* near it. This St. Kieran was the first bishop of Saiger. Archbishop Usher says, he was born in this island.†

Towards the middle of the island is the chapel, a long narrow thatched building, and as destitute of any ornament as a barn. The priest lives in the island during the winter months, and in the summer stops at Sherkip, an island which lies between the cape and the main land.

The houses are built of stone, with mud for mortar, and are mostly thatched with straw, which is artfully kept down by nets covering the whole roof; these nets are made of ropes of straw, the meshes not quite a foot square; to the ends of these stones are tied, which hang down round the eaves. There is no turf on the island, but there is a kind of mud at the west lakes, which a few of the inhabitants work together with their hands and dry: turf is brought from the mainland, and sold on Sundays and holidays.

The inhabitants are very poor, and generally a simple

\* From Smith's History of Cork.

† Idem.